

PATENTS
Attorney Docket No. FIW-004.01

REMARKS

Claims 1-51 were pending. Claims 1-2, 6, 18, and 49-51 are canceled by this Amendment, claims 3-5, 7-10, 19-25, 27-31, 36-42, and 44-45 are amended, and claims 52-54 are added. The specification is amended to correct a minor typographical error. No new matter is entered.

Allowable subject matter

Applicant notes with thanks the Examiner's determination that claims 47 and 48 are allowable, and that claims 5, 7-9, 19, 21, and 23-24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim amendments

Claims 5, 7, 19, 21, 23, and 24 have been rewritten in independent form to recite all of the features of original claim 1 and any respective intervening claims.

Claims 3-4, 8-10, 20, 22, 25, 27-31, 36-42, and 44-45 are amended to change their respective claim dependencies as a result of the cancellation of claims 1 and 18.

Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,214,037 to Mitchell et al ("the Mitchell patent") in view of PCT Pat. App. Pub. No. WO 01/89415 to Henner ("Henner").

Claims 1-4, 10-18, 20, 22, 25-41, 44-46, and 49-51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the Mitchell patent in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,524,268 to Hayner et al. ("Hayner").

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Claims 42 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over the Mitchell patent in view Hayner and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,282,784 to Willard.

In response, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection. Claims 1-2, 6, 18, and 49-51 have been cancelled, and the other rejected claims each depend ultimately from an allowable independent claim.

The Examiner is invited to call the Applicant's Agent if any questions remain.

Respectfully submitted,

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